



**“I am going to  
make the  
most of this.”**

## A Bright Light - A Beacon for Others

Winston Brightly was the first graduate from the Jobs Funnel to make it into an apprenticeship program and on to become a master electrician. And while his name - "Brightly" is just a coincidence, his pathway to success was not. Winston had always wanted to be an electrician after moving here at age 19 from Jamaica, but in order to support his family, he obtained his CDL license and quickly picked up odd jobs here and there, driving busses and trucks. Yet, he didn't give up on his dream.

Winston found out about the Jobs Funnel - then known as the Hartford Construction Jobs Initiative - and it was all he had ever hoped for. Free training in his first choice field of interest, coaching to help him through language and cultural barriers, discipline, motivation and guidance to help him stay focused on his goals, and the ability to work through the 5-year process so that he could continue to support a growing family.

"I am going to make the most of this," said Winston, describing his discovery as an "uplifting experience."

And make the most of it he did. Years later, Winston now looks back at some of his projects with pride - The Connecticut Convention Center including over 900 lights in the Exhibit Halls alone, rehabilitation projects at the Hartford Steam Boiler Building and City Place, the casino's Foxwoods MGM Grand, and schools like the Science and Medical Academy.

The Jobs Funnel is where Winston says "it all started." "Not only do you get set up for a job, you get to build a resume, you get new tools to work with and you get a lot of encouragement. They took care of me. And now, I am independent and doing well with plans to convert my experience to two years of college credits toward an engineering degree."

A future with vision, not only for Winston, but for all who follow. One bright light at a time.

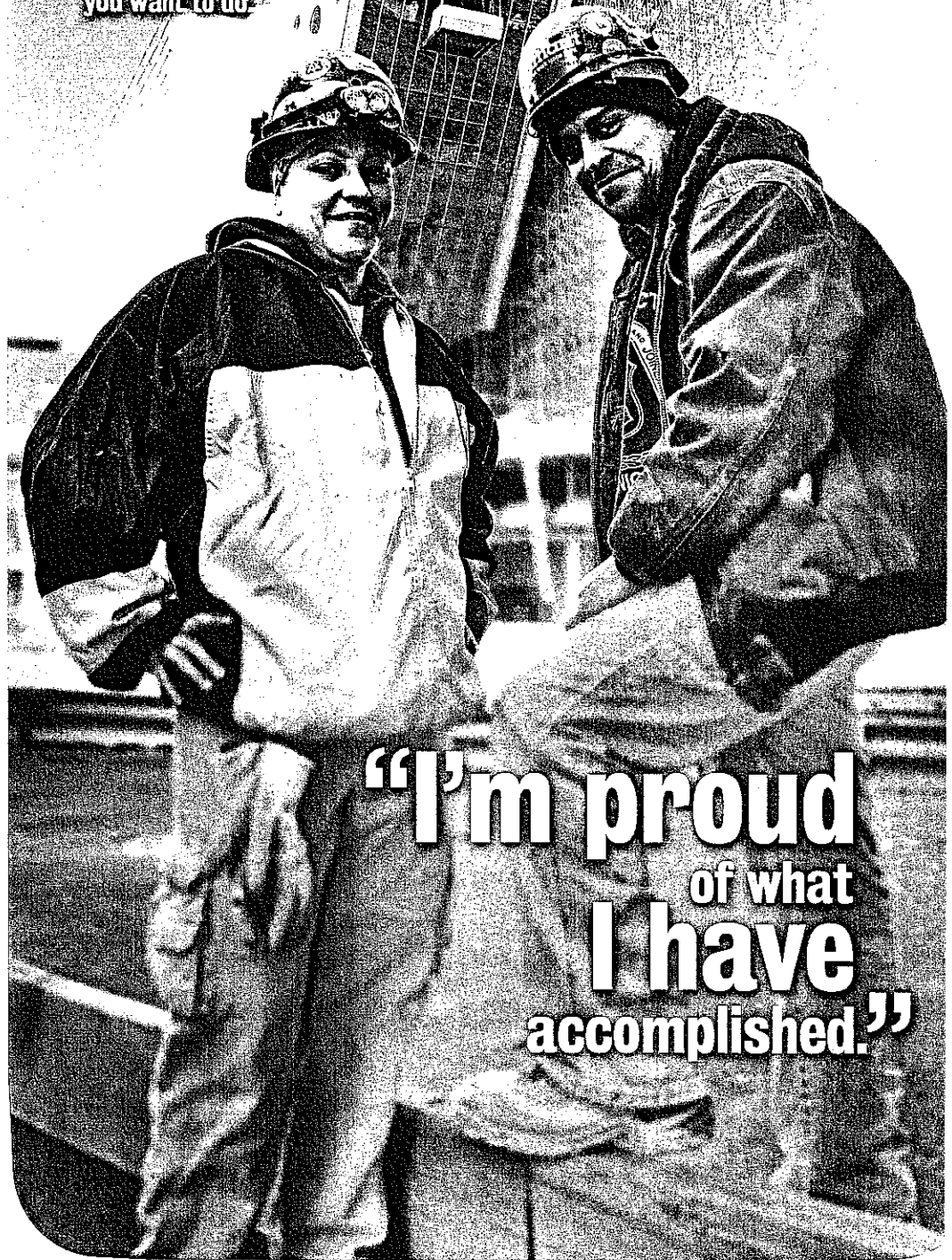


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**"I'm proud  
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## Unlikely Success Stories? Guess Again.

Sometimes the treacherous mountains and large brick walls that stand in our path are a reason enough to choose to climb them just to get to the other side. Carpenters, Carmen Scarlatta and Edwin Crespo were very unlikely success stories when they were faced with tremendous barriers.

### **Carmen Scarlatta**

Carmen was a single mom, had limited English and academic skills and realized she liked to do what the "guys do" get in the trenches, work hard and even drive big trucks. When she was introduced to the Jobs Funnel, she understood her dreams could be realized.

"If you like it, you can do anything you want," said Carmen, and she proceeded to get her Class A license for truck driving, has completed her carpenter's apprenticeship and has helped to build Hartford's new Science and Medical Academy, the University of Hartford extension on Albany Avenue and now Hartford's flagship Science Center. Her goal is to become a foreman.

### **Edwin Crespo**

Edwin always needed to be on top, "a leader" ahead of the rest. Unfortunately, his first pathways into adulthood led him to the wrong side of "the top." After a brief stint leading a gang in the streets of Hartford, he had a longer stint in Corrections and soon found himself back out on the street with an opportunity to recreate himself and start a new life.

That is what he did, and he hasn't looked back. Not once. Edwin started with the Jobs Funnel in 2003 and knew he connected to a new, special kind of gang. One that focuses on continuous learning, bettering yourself to better the lives of others and working hard for a living. As a carpenter, Edwin now reaches for the top by aspiring to be the most competent person on the job. He has attained numerous certifications, and attends ongoing training classes. Now when he goes home from work, he plays "Bob the Builder" with his son Edwin Jr. and is proud to share with him, "This is what daddy does."



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